

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 OES-03 AID-05 CEQ-01

CIAE-00 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07

L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 SS-15 SP-02

FEAE-00 INT-05 /103 R

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OES/ENP - MR. HERTER

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R 220214Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UNEP

SUBJECT: UNEP: AUSTRALIAN CANDIDACY FOR EXECUTIVE
DIRECTORSHIP

REF: (A) USUN 181; (B) STATE 242507

1. IT IS USG VIEW (REFTEL (B)) THAT UNEP EXECUTIVE
DIRECTORSHIP IS SENIOR LEVEL UN POST TO WHICH WEO'S HAVE
RIGHT TO ASPIRE, IN VIEW LEVEL OF WEO FINANCIAL COMMITMENT
TO ENVIRONMENT FUND. THIS VIEW HAS BEEN COMMUNICATED ON
SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO SYG AND OTHER SENIOR LEVEL UN
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OFFICIALS BY US AND OTHER COUNTRY REPS.

2. ACCORDINGLY, DEPT WELCOMES MCMICHAEL CANDIDACY. MCMICHAEL HAS REPRESENTED AUSTRALIA AT TWO SESSIONS OF UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL WHERE HE HAS PLAYED HIGHLY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE. AT THIRD SESSION, MCMICHAEL PROVED HIMSELF SKILLFUL AND HIGHLY COMPETENT CHAIRMAN OF ONE OF TWO MAJOR GOVERNING COUNCIL COMMITTEES. DEPT OFFICIALS FAMILIAR WITH MCMICHAELS BELIEVE HE WOULD BE HIGHLY CAPABLE ADMINISTRATOR FULLY COMPETENT HANDLE WITH DISTINCTION THIS TOP UNEP POST. FACT THAT HE IS SENIOR LEVEL AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICIAL ADDS CREDENCE TO HIS CANDIDACY.

3. MISSION SHOULD INFORM AUSTRALIANS THAT USG WELCOMES MCMICHAEL'S CANDIDACY AND WILL GIVE IT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. MISSION MAY CONFIRM US CONTINUING INTEREST IN IDENTIFYING STRONG WEO CANDIDATES FOR THIS POSITION AND OUR CONCURRENCE WITH AUSTRALIAN ASSESSMENT THAT CHANCE OF SUCCESS WILL BE ENHANCED IF CANDIDATE CAN BE ADVANCED FROM OUTSET WITH FULL WEO BACKING. WE WILL RESERVE FINAL POSITION ON AUSTRALIAN CANDIDACY TO LATER STAGE WHEN BECOMES CLEAR WHETHER OR NOT OTHER WEO'S INTEND ADVANCE CANDIDATES. ALTHOUGH DEPT HAS NO INFORMATION OTHER POTENTIAL WEO CANDIDATES, DEPT DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE WISE TO CLOSE DOOR TO OTHER POSSIBLE WEO CANDIDATES AT THIS STAGE. MISSION MAY INFORM AUSTRALIANS, HOWEVER, THAT US AGREES THAT, IF POSSIBLE, WEO'S SHOULD ENDEAVOR TO COME TO A DECISION BY THE TIME OF THE 4TH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL IN MARCH IF NOT EARLIER.

4. AUSTRALIAN NOTE, IDENTICAL COMMUNICATION TRANSMITTED REFTEL (A), RECEIVED IN DEPT (IO) AFTER FOREGOING PREPARED. DEPT WILL ACKNOWLEDGE AND NOTE THAT CONSULTATION THIS SUBJECT IN PROGRESS THROUGH USUN.

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